

Subparts C-E—[Reserved]

Subpart F—Conditions of Participation: Rural Primary Care Hospitals (RPCBs)

SOURCE: 58 FR 30671, May 26, 1993, unless otherwise noted.

§ 485.601 Basis and scope.

(a) *Statutory basis.* This subpart is based on section 1820 of the Act which sets forth the conditions for designating certain hospitals as RPCBs.

(b) *Scope.* This subpart sets forth the conditions that a hospital must meet to be designated as an RPCB.

§ 485.602 Definitions.

As used in this subpart, unless the context indicates otherwise:

Direct services means services provided by employed staff of the RPCB, not services provided through arrangements or agreements.

[59 FR 45403, Sept. 1, 1994]

§ 485.603 Rural health network.

A rural health network is an organization that meets the following specifications:

- (a) It includes—
 - (1) At least one hospital that the State has designated or plans to designate as an RPCB; and
 - (2) At least one hospital that meets one of the following conditions:
 - (i) The State has designated or plans to designate the hospital as an EACH under § 412.109(d) of this chapter.
 - (ii) HCFA has classified the hospital as a referral center under § 412.96 of this chapter.
 - (iii) The hospital is located in an urban area and meets the criteria for classification as a regional referral center under § 412.96 of this chapter.
- (b) The members of the organization have entered into agreements regarding—
 - (1) Patient referral and transfer;
 - (2) The development and use of communications systems, including, where feasible, telemetry systems and systems for electronic sharing of patient data; and

(3) The provision of emergency and nonemergency transportation among members.

[58 FR 30671, May 26, 1993, as amended at 60 FR 45850, Sept. 1, 1995]

§ 485.604 Personnel qualifications.

Staff that furnish services in an RPCB must meet the applicable requirements of this section.

(a) *Clinical nurse specialist.* A clinical nurse specialist must be a person who performs the services of a clinical nurse specialist as authorized by the State, in accordance with State law or the State regulatory mechanism provided by State law.

(b) *Nurse practitioner.* A nurse practitioner must be a registered professional nurse who is currently licensed to practice in the State, who meets the State's requirements governing the qualification of nurse practitioners, and who meets one of the following conditions:

- (1) Is currently certified as a primary care nurse practitioner by the American Nurses' Association or by the National Board of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and Associates.
 - (2) Has successfully completed a 1 academic year program that—
 - (i) Prepares registered nurses to perform an expanded role in the delivery of primary care;
 - (ii) Includes at least 4 months (in the aggregate) of classroom instruction and a component of supervised clinical practice; and
 - (iii) Awards a degree, diploma, or certificate to persons who successfully complete the program.
 - (3) Has successfully completed a formal educational program (for preparing registered nurses to perform an expanded role in the delivery of primary care) that does not meet the requirements of paragraph (a)(2) of this section, and has been performing an expanded role in the delivery of primary care for a total of 12 months during the 18-month period immediately preceding June 25, 1993.
- (c) *Physician assistant.* A physician assistant must be a person who meets the applicable State requirements governing the qualifications for assistants to primary care physicians, and who